

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05

INR-07 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3284

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM - REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

REF: A. CAIRO 3661; B. STATE 80689 C. CAIRO 3615

1. I WAS CALLED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EVENING APR 10 AT 2000 HOURS LOCAL WHERE I WAS RECEIVED BY AMB OSMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE. HE SAID HE WAS ACTING ON FAHMY'S INSTRUCTIONS AND ASKED THAT THE FOREIGNER WHO APPARENTLY WAS SEEKING ASYLUM AT AMCONGEN ALEXANDRIA SHOULD BE TURNED OVER PROMPTLY TO THE ALEXANDRIA POLICE AUTHORITIES. OSMAN UNDERSTOOD SHE WAS AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND MAINTAINED THAT SHE CAME UNDER EGYPTIAN LEGAL JURISDICTION.

2. THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED IS MISS MARTA NARATOVA, CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL, WHO SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM AT THE CONGEN AND WHOM WE WERE SEEKING TO PLACE IN REFUGEE CHANNELS (REFTELS C AND A). ACCORDING TO OUR INFO, MISS NARATOVA IS TEMPORARILY LODGED IN VICE CONSUL FICHTE'S HOME.

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3. I EXPLAINED TO AMB OSMAN THAT ONLY USG INTEREST WAS TO ENSURE THAT SHE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH HER ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE STATUS, AND, IF THIS WERE ACCORDED, TO RECEIVE APPROPRIATE TREATMENT AS A REFUGEE. I ASKED OSMAN IF HE COULD GIVE ME SUCH ASSURANCE. HE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT AND SAID THAT EGYPTIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES WOULD HANDLE HER CASE IN CONFORMANCE WITH THEIR PROCEDURES.

4. I THEN ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SEE FONMIN FAHMY SINCE I WANTED TO EXPLORE HER TREATMENT FURTHER, BUT OSMAN TOLD ME THAT THE FONMIN HAD ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT AND WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

5. I THEN SAID THAT I WOULD HAVE TO REPORT THE MATTER TO MY GOVERNMENT AND SEEK INSTRUCTIONS. OSMAN AGREED, BUT INSISTED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD HAVE TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES.

6. I RETURNED TO EMBASSY AND CALLED AMB OMAR SIRRI, FAHMY'S CHEF DU CABINET AT HOME AND RELATED OSMAN'S INTERVIEW TO HIM, EXPLAINING THAT SUCH AFFAIRS INVOLVING REFUGEES WERE GIVEN GREAT ATTENTION BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND THAT I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THIS MATTER BLOWN OUT OF ALL PROPORTION WITH UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONSHIPS. I TOLD SIRRI THAT I HAD WANTED TO COMMUNICATE THIS TO HIS MINISTER.

7. SIRRI THEN GOT IN TOUCH WITH HIS MINISTER CONVEYING THESE THOUGHTS AND REPORTED THE FOLLOWING TO ME. HE SAID FAHMY NOTED THAT CONSULATES DID NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROVIDE ASYLUM AND, THEREFORE, THE INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES. FAHMY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD SHE ASK FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM FROM EGYPT, THE GOE WAS PREPARED TO LOOK UPON IT POSITIVELY.

8. I THANKED SIRRI FOR THIS SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION, SAID THAT I WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT, AND PRESUMED THAT WE COULD DEAL WITH THIS MATTER IN THE MORNING. SIRRI AGREED.

9. IN VIEW OF FAHMY'S ASSURANCE AS CONVEYED BY SIRRI, I RECOMMEND THAT CONGEN ALEXANDRIA BE INSTRUCTED TO TURN
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MS. NARATOVA OVER TO THE APPROPRIATE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES FRIDAY, APRIL 11. PLEASE ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.
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Message Attributes

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